

REMARKS

The Official Action of December 3, 2003 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

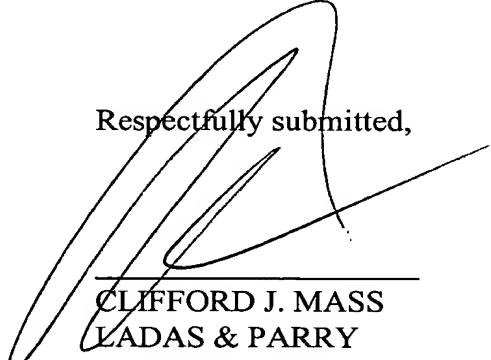
Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein the recitations previously included in claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled. New claim 24 has been added more completely to define the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. The recitations in this claim draw support from Examples 5-8, which appear on pages 22-23 of the specification. (Note that the percentages of the exemplified components are weight percentages- -see specification at page 20, lines 17-21.)

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 15-23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hickman et al in view of Uemura et al or over this combination of references further in view of Rehman. It is respectfully noted that neither of these rejections has been applied against the recitations, formerly in claim 2, which have now been incorporated into claim 1, and indeed the Examiner has acknowledged that Hickman et al fail to teach glycerin in the recited ink composition. Accordingly, and since all claims of record now depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, the claims as amended are respectfully believed to be free of these prior art rejections.

Claims 1-3 and 5-14 also were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 1010802. However, Applicant respectfully notes that EP 1010802 has an effective date as a reference as of its publication date, June 6, 2000, which is **after** the filing date of the Japanese application, H11(1999)-375315, from which Applicant claims priority. Applicant antedates the reference on the basis of his earlier priority application and shall submit shortly a certified English translation of the priority application to perfect his claim to priority.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections have been addressed and that, upon submission of the aforementioned certified English translation, the application will be in allowable form. An early and favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



CLIFFORD J. MASS
LADAS & PARRY
26 WEST 61ST STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023
REG. NO.30,086(212)708-1890